

HOUSE BILL 991
By Vaughn

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 63 and Title 68, relative to emergency
vehicles.

WHEREAS, emergency vehicles are often on critical missions and driven at high rates
of speed; and

WHEREAS, many persons driving such vehicles may lack training and may be subject to
making dangerous errors; and

WHEREAS, although emergency vehicles are designed and equipped to save lives and
property, they may themselves be the cause of loss of life and of property; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) It is the intent of the general assembly that each person who drives an emergency
vehicle in its official capacity shall be certified to drive such emergency vehicle. Certification
may be by a local or national organization. Certification shall include training in the operation of
the vehicle, a review of all applicable laws pertaining to emergency vehicles, and training to
respond to actions of non-emergency vehicles. Each driver shall take not less than two (2)
hours of training annually. Organizations conducting such training shall also provide
examinations for such drivers. A driver shall take and pass an examination at least once every
five (5) years. Such examination shall include a driving component. A driver of an emergency
vehicle who is certified pursuant to this section is not liable to any person or entity in any civil
action for damages to a person as a result of the emergency vehicle driver's act of commission
or omission arising out of the driver's emergency duties or activities. Nothing in this part grants

civil immunity to a driver who intentionally or by gross negligence inflicts injury or damage to a person or entity.

(b) The provisions of this section shall apply to all law enforcement personnel, firefighters, including volunteer firefighters, rescue personnel, including volunteer rescue personnel, and emergency services personnel.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.